1: Metraux E-5 (1934-1935) 1940
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POPULATION

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The estimates of population made by the early voyagers are only approximate, based on the number of natives they happened to see at the anchorage and on brief reconnoitering expeditions ashore.

Roggeveen (186, p. 11) vaguely refers to "the great number of natives," but he saw only two or three old women while ashore (1772); and Behrens (18, vol. 1, p. 125), who always exaggerates, speaks of thousands of natives "swimming in the water."

In 1770 Gonzalez (90, p. 93) estimated that there were more than 800 natives posted on the heights or along the shore on the north side of the island between Ovahe and La Pérouse. Four hundred natives visited his ship (90, p. 100). A member of the expedition who circumnavigated the island puts the entire population at 900 to 1,000 (90, p. 127). So few women were seen that the Spaniards believed that there were only about 70 women on the entire island. Children were not seen. In a letter of Dalrymple (90, p. 45) mentioning the Gonzalez expedition, the total population of the island is given as 3,000.

When Captain Cook's party landed in 1774, G. Forster (83, vol. 1, p. 577) calculated that there were 200 in the crowd at the shore, of which only 15 were women and a few were children. Cook (53, vol. 1, p. 289) estimated the total population at 600 to 700 of which two thirds were males. J. R. Forster (84, p. 423) assumed that the total population was 900 and says that he saw only 50 women; he concluded that the population had decreased rapidly since the visit of Gonzalez and was on the verge of extinction. As Cook (53, vol. 1, p. 289) suggested, the natives were undoubtedly frightened by the arrival of foreigners and hid their women in inland caves as was done during wartime (p. 192).

When La Pérouse landed at Hanga-roa in 1786, he was met by a crowd of about 800, 150 of whom were women. He expressed the opinion that the total population was around 2,000 and concluded, from the number of houses and children, that it was not on the decline.

Population figures given by nineteenth century voyagers are even less accurate than those of earlier explorers, for none of them stayed on the island for more than a few minutes. Their estimates are merely guesses made from a distance and generally for only a part of the island. Figures given by missionaries after 1864 are fairly reliable.

Lisiansky in 1804 (143, p. 60) estimated the total population at 1,500, based on the number of habitations seen and the number of natives assembled at Hanga-roa Bay.

Delano (5, p. 356) in 1808 saw 500 or 600 natives along the north coast and 200 or 300 near where he tried to land on the west coast.

In 1816 when Kotzebue tried unsuccessfully to land, Choris (48, p. 12) guessed that there were 900 gathered on the beach at Hanga-roa, of whom only two were women.

In 1825 Beechey's officers (15, vol. 1, p. 51) put the total population at 1,500.

Captain Lejeune (165, vol. 28, p. 45) of the *Cassini* reported seeing between 1,200 and 1,400 natives in the summer of 1862. There must have been at least 2,000, however, for in 1864, after slave raids and many deaths from smallpox, there were still 1,200 natives to greet Eyraud.

Shortly after Lejeune's visit in 1862, Easter Island was raided by Peruvian slavers who took from 800 to 1,000 natives by force to Peru (115, p. 242; 165, p. 49). The few men who returned introduced smallpox and during 1863 the mortality on the island was great.

In his first letter from the island, Eyraud (81) speaks of a crowd of 1,200 men, women, and children surrounding him on the shore. The entire population at that time is said to have been nearly 2,000.

In 1866, Zumbohm (230, vol. 5, p. 663), who was also a missionary on the island, estimated the entire population at 1,000, and believed that it once reached 4,000.

1: Metraux E-5 (1934-1935) 1940
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Roussel (190, p. 426) states that a census taken between 1867 and 1870 showed a total population of 650. He believes that the population was never more than 5,000 or 6,000 because the interior of the island was never inhabited.

In 1869 Powell (180, p. 142) estimated the population at 800, and Palmer (169, p. 372) at 900 of whom one third were women.

In 1870 Gana (86) reported the population at about 600.

The disproportion of the sexes in the last half of the nineteenth century is not exaggerated. Roussel, who knew the island well, states that formerly the number of women exceeded the number of men but that women seemed more susceptible to smallpox and tuberculosis and that "out of three dead two are females." That this disproportion was abnormal is proved by native testimony and the present balance between male and female birth rates. Geiseler (87, p. 22) attributes the disproportion and the falling birth rate to the past, for he had heard that long before white contact there was but one woman to every five men. Disease may have been introduced by infrequent visits of whalers who before 1830 had contaminated the island with syphilis (162, p. 26).

The smallpox epidemic apparently ceased after the arrival of the missionaries, but mortality was still high and the population continued to diminish. Roussel (190, p. 427) gives a reason for this that is worth considering:

I know of no other reason for the decrease of the population other than deprivations of all sorts, the humidity of the huts, the bad air of the winter season, their immorality and their extreme imprudence in living with sick people. To frighten them with the threat of death is just useless. They do not care for life. They fear death as little as they like their relatives. As long as they hope to save a sick person they take care of him, but if the disease becomes serious, they abandon him and pay no attention to his requests or wants.

As a matter of fact the only disease on Rapa-nui is scrofula, but it seems to be very different from the ordinary kind. They suffer from dysentery, but so rarely that it is not dangerous. We had only two cases of tetanus and they were fatal, one case of apoplexy and one of cerebral congestion.

Bates (86, p. 51), the surgeon of the *O'Higgins* who visited the island in 1870, attributes the great mortality of the population to scrofula and consumption. He considers that premature marriages affected the birth rate. It is hard to tell exactly what he means by "scrofula" which he says was common among children, whereas adults died of "pulmonary ailments."

The lack of hygiene and the free sexual life of the girls cannot be considered as serious factors in the depopulation. Smallpox probably made the greatest ravages among young people, so that there is nothing surprising in the continued decrease in birth rate even after the epidemics were over. In addition to the other calamities war broke out among the islanders and was followed by a period of famine. In 1866, Ollivier (165, vol. 39, p. 257) wrote that the mortality caused by misery and famine was very high and that the missionaries had to take care of a great many orphans.

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TABLE 1. POPULATION OF EASTER ISLAND, 1872-1934

	Adults M	Adults F	Children M	Children F	Total for island	Foreigners included in total	Remarks	Source of information
1872		55			175			De Lapelin (129), Jaussen (113)
1877		26			111		minimum recorded population	Pinart (178, p. 238)
1882	67	39	44, both sexes		150			Geiseler (87, p. 19)
1886	68	43	17	27	155	6 Tahitians, 5 Europeans	population at standstill, births equaling deaths	Census given by Salmon to Thomson (215, p. 461) and Cooks (54, p. 712)
1888	100	78			178	12 Chilean colonists	58 men over 30; 28 women over 30	Policarpo Toro
1890					188		in 15 months, 6 died, 9 emigrated, 9 were born, and 15 returned from Tahiti	
1892	112	89			201			Meyer and Jablonowski (160, p. 5)
1897					250	40 Chileans	inaccurate	Eich (69, p. 415)
1900	64		44	41	213	12 Chileans, 2 Englishmen, 1 Frenchman, 1 Italian		Butaye
1911	114	114			228			Census taken by *Baquedano*
1912					248		this rapid increase has continued up to the present	Knoche (123, p. 156)
1916					273			
1917					301	3 Europeans, 5 or 6 Tahitians, 21 Chileans	in 9 months, 3 persons died and 12 children were born	Knoche (123, p. 156)
1918					260		probably inaccurate	Estella (79, pp. 60-64)
1922	156	142	123 under 10	45 under 3	298	2 Europeans, 6 Chileans	1 woman 100 yrs. old, 9 men of about 80, 26 persons over 50	Knoche (123, p. 157)
1934	65	85	163	143	456		only 159 are of exclusive Easter Island origin; 297 have some Tahitian, Chilean, Tuamotuan, German, French, English, Chinese, American, or Italian blood	Drapkin (62)

2:Ferdon A-5 (1956) 1957
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

NOTES ON THE PRESENT-DAY EASTER ISLANDERS

EDWIN N. FERDON, JR.

EASTER ISLAND, or Rapa-nui, is one of the most isolated high islands in all of Polynesia, being approximately 2,100 miles west of Chile and 1,100 miles east of Pitcairn, the nearest inhabited island to the west. Discovered by Roggeveen in 1722 and visited during the 18th and 19th centuries by such well known Pacific explorers as Cook, La Pérouse, and Beechy, its extreme isolation, tree-barren slopes, and, quite possibly, its lack of good anchorage kept European contact to a minimum. Even today regular contact with the outside world is an annual affair conducted by the Chilean Navy. For years the island was virtually ignored, except for some Catholic missionaries, until Chile, in 1888, took formal possession. Easter Island has, however, never been truly occupied by Chile in the sense of maintaining a permanent settlement of continentals. In time Chile came to lease over four-fifths of the island to a British wool-growing company, and the natives were relegated to the remainder of the land around Hangaroa village. This commercial arrangement continued until 1954 when the government refused to renew the lease and turned over the running of the island, including the sheep ranch, to its Navy personnel.

As a result of the lack of interest in colonization, and the development of ranching interests, the island's foreign population has been kept small. In 1917 there were twenty-one Whites on the island, in 1922 only six, in 1934 thirteen, and today about 30.[1] Except for the church, and the founding of a regular government school in 1934,[2] there appears to have been little intentional effort to convert the natives to Chilean culture. However, owing to the legally enforced requirement that the British wool company maintain a store with such native necessities as cloth, clothing, and various tools and equipment, the islanders came to depend more and more upon the annual shipment of these Chilean products, and less and less upon their environmentally impoverished homecraft manufactures. Owing in part to this situation, acculturation has moved steadily forward on the material culture level and, because it is readily observable, has tended to mask any lags that may exist in the social and psychological patterning of Rapa-nui culture.

1 I. Dreplkin, *Contribution to the Demographic Study of Easter Island* (Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Occasional Papers, vol. 11, no. 12, p. 4, Honolulu, 1935).

2 *Idem*, p. 7.

3:Drapkin D-5 (1934-1935) 1935
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CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY OF EASTER ISLAND*

By I. Drapkin, M.D.

INTRODUCTION

This demographic study is part of a series of undertakings carried out on the spot by the Franco-Belgian Scientific Expedition, under the direction of Mr. A. Métraux, from July 1934 to January 1935. In my capacity as doctor, delegated by the Chilean Government, I took charge of all the researches concerning demography, the sanitary condition of the natives, as well as the formation of natural science collections. 121

The various data which I endeavored to bring together, systematically arranged, doubtless will contribute to the presentation of a correct idea of the actual demographic condition of the indigenous population of this island.

CENSUS

Most of the navigators who have visited Easter Island since Roggeveen have made varied and conflicting estimates of the number of the inhabitants. As these estimates had to do with impressions rather than observations founded on exact facts, one should not fail to take that into account. 161 175

The first actual census of the population of Easter Island was made at the end of 1886 by Mr. A. A. Salmon, who had arrived a short time before on the American warship *Mohican*. According to Salmon, there were then 155 natives grouped as follows: 162

Children Under 15 Years	
Male	17
Female	27
Adults	
Male	68
Female	43
Total	155

Thomson,[1] to whom we owe these valuable facts, adds that the number of the natives remained the same during many years, with a 161 175

* Translated by Margaret Titcomb, Librarian, Bernice P. Bishop Museum.

[1] Thompson, William J., Te pito te henua or Easter Island: Smithsonian Inst., Nat. Mus., Rept., pp. 460-461, 1888-89.

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3:Drapkin D-5 (1934-1935) 1935
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161 perfect equilibrium between the births and the deaths. He remarks also that examples of longevity are more frequent in Easter Island [165] than in more favored regions. At this time the oldest man was a chief named Mati, whose exact age was unknown, but both he and his wife must have been 90 years old.

Mrs. Routledge,[2] but especially Knoche,[3] give us in their works on Easter Island certain statistics which I consider necessary to quote here.

In 1900, there were 213 inhabitants. In 1911, there were 228, the two sexes equal in number. In 1912, there were 248, and in 1914, 250. In 1916, the population had reached 273.

162 In 1917, the total population of Easter Island was 301 inhabitants. This number included 3 Europeans, 18 Chileans, and 280 Polynesians, setting aside the question of the pure blood of these last. During 9 months of this year, there were 3 deaths and 12 births.

Until 1922 the situation remained stationary, with the exception of slight fluctuations. There were then 298 inhabitants, among whom were 2 Europeans, 4 Chileans, and 11 of mixed blood, half-foreign. Sexes were divided as follows: 156 men and 142 women. There were 46 children under 3 years, 123 children under 10 years, 36 persons over 50 years, and 9 persons over 80 years.

161 Our census of Easter Island gives, on December 31, 1934, the sum total of 456 natives. I have not included in my statistics the 13 whites who actually live there. These are 1 Frenchman, married to a native, who has lived in the island for 40 years; an Italian, who has been there for 30 years; an Englishman, administrator of the Easter Island Produce Company, with his wife and two sons; another Englishman, subadministrator of the same company; six Chileans, who are the Maritime Commissioner, supreme authority in the island, his wife, his son, the head of the school at Hanga Roa, and two women married to natives.

162 According to age the natives may be divided into five categories:

	Male	Female	Total
Infants under 2 years	32	21	53
Children from 3 to 12 years	86	77	163
Adolescents from 13 to 20 years	45	45	90
Adults from 21 to 50 years	61	67	128
Adults 50 and over	4	18	22
Total	228	228	456

Two interesting facts deserve attention: first, the perfect equilib-

[2] Routledge, Mrs. Scoresby, The mystery of Easter Island, London, p. 149, 1919.
[3] Knoche, Walter, Die Osterinsel, Concepción, Chile, pp. 154-157.

3:Drapkin D-5 (1934-1935) 1935
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rium existing between the number of individuals of both sexes, not only in the total number, but also at most of the different stages of life (45 adolescents of the two sexes, for instance); secondly, the large number of old women compared with the old men—only 4 old men over 50, but 18 old women, one of them almost 95 years old (Paulina Viriamo).

DENSITY

Easter Island has an area of approximately 17,900 hectares. The natives have the use of only 2,000 hectares, for the other 15,900 hectares belong to the Produce Company, by virtue of a concession. If from these 2,000 hectares are deducted the government lands and such establishments as roads, the common, the church, school, cemetery, the land of the Commissioner, etc., the extent of the land actually belonging to the natives is reduced to 1,800 hectares, which results in a density of 4 inhabitants to a hectare.

The comparison between the census of Salmon in 1886 and ours in 1934 brings a realization of the rapid increase of the population, which has tripled in less than a half century. The portion of public land occupied by the natives is not one of the most favored for agriculture. If the increase in population continues according to the same rhythm the day will come when the establishment of future families will constitute a veritable problem.

PURE-BLOODED AND MIXED-BLOODED INDIVIDUALS

To distinguish between Easter Islanders of pure and mixed blood is an undertaking not only difficult but indeed impossible. During the whole course of the nineteenth century the island was visited by a great number of ships, the crews of which, on account of the liberty of Polynesian customs, were able to have sex relations with the natives. To these occasional associations there have been added all those which have occurred after the foreign occupation.

It is easy to understand that under such conditions it may be difficult to make a distinction which can claim to be precise between the direct descendants of the old inhabitants and those of mixed blood. Nevertheless, in the hope of making a more or less correct classification, I have resorted to the following method. Taking as a basis the personal information supplied by the individuals themselves, and corroborated by the testimony of the oldest natives and those most reliable in the community, I have considered as pure those who for

3:Drapkin D-5 (1934-1935) 1935
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128 three generations back show no intermixture with foreign elements.
144 By foreigners I mean not only Europeans and Chileans but Polyne-
162 sians from other islands—Tuamotuans, Tahitians, and others.

144 Only 139 Easter Islanders, or 34.86 percent of the total popula-
162 tion, can be considered of pure blood. The 297 others, or 65.14 percent of the population, show degrees of intermixture varying but evident. A detailed study of degrees of intermixture shows the following individuals with some foreign blood:

Tahitian	184
German	101
French	77
Tuamotuan	53
Chilean	46
English	31
Chinese	6
American	2
Italian	2
Unknown	12

The 12 whose mixed blood is unknown are natural children whose mothers have no certainty or not complete certainty as to the father.
[836] This fact has nothing extraordinary about it when one realizes the great sexual liberty which the native women enjoy.

144 The proportion of foreign blood varies for each one of these crossings from 1/2 to 1/16, that is to say, we have been able in many cases to search back to the fourth generation.

The exact percentage of foreign blood among 297 Easter Island crossings is clear from the following table:

	Percent
Tahitian blood	39.28
Chilean blood	12.90
Tuamotuan blood	11.49
German blood	11.08
French blood	10.00
English blood	8.47
Unknown blood	4.03
Chinese blood	1.20
American blood	0.60
Italian blood	0.60

If these two tables are set side by side one is struck by the fact that the mixtures with Chilean blood have fifth place in the table

3:Drapkin D-5 (1934-1935) 1935
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

showing the number of individuals with mixed blood, but second place, immediately following the Tahitian, in the table of percentages. This apparent contradiction is explained by the recent influx of Chilean blood, which tends to increase, while Tahitian, German, French and other older strains have a tendency to diminish, so that the proportions of these elements are rather low.

CIVIL REGISTRATION

The great freedom which prevails in sexual relations does not prevent frequent legal marriages. As a general rule, the natives marry young and a celibate over 30 years of age is an exception. In numerous instances widowed persons remarry, especially if still young, and there are widows who have had three or four husbands (Catalina Tori Makotahia, for example).

Therefore, even if one considers as celibates all the young people over 13 years, the percentage of married people remains always greater.

	Individuals	Percent
Married	112	46.66
Celibates	94	38.74
Widowed persons	34	14.60
Total	240	100.00

ILLEGITIMATE AND LEGITIMATE CHILDREN

From 1915 to 1917, following the creation of a government register at Easter Island, almost all the unions which had been given religious consecration were legalized and at the same time the greater number of the children legitimized. That is why we shall consider as illegitimate those children who were born out of wedlock after 1917 and those who were not recognized at that time.

Even with these reservations the number of illegitimate children is fairly high. It amounts to 96, which constitutes 21 percent of the total population.

ILLITERACY

Public instruction in Easter Island until the past year was the most rudimentary. Long periods of no schooling at all alternated with more or less accidental sessions of class work. It was not until 1934 that a public school was organized, always dependent upon the

9: Forster T-5 (1774) 1777
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1774. MARCH. beads, but they always threw them away with contempt, as far as ever they could. Whatever elſe they ſaw about us, they were deſirous of poſſeſſing, though they had nothing to give in return. Their number was now decreaſed nearly to one half, many of them having probably gone home to their dinners; however, the number of women was always remarkably ſmall in proportion to the men, there being not above twelve or fifteen at our firſt landing, and about ſix or ſeven when we embarked again. They were neither reſerved nor chaſte, and for the trifling conſideration of a ſmall piece of cloth, ſome of our ſailors obtained the gratification of their deſires. Their features were mild enough, and the large pointed cap gave them the air of profeſſed wantons.

We returned on board the ſhip before noon, and found it at anchor, though we had left it under ſail. The freſh fruits and roots which we brought on board, were immediately diſtributed as far as they would go, and proved a moſt ſeaſonable refreſhment to our ſick. We taſted the fowls, which ſeemed to have been dreſſed under-ground, by means of hot ſtones being wrapped up in green leaves, in the manner practiſed amongſt all the nations of the South Sea, whom we had hitherto viſited. The potatoes were of a gold-yellow colour, and as ſweet as carrots, therefore not equally palatable to us all; however they were extremely nouriſhing, and very antiſcorbutic. The juices of this,

9: Forster T-5 (1774) 1777
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

hand, which, as I have mentioned above, are made of wood, at preſent not to be met with upon the iſland. The only idea which offers itſelf, is that they were made long ago, and have been ſaved by accident or predilection, at the general cataſtrophe which ſeems to have happened. All the women whom we ſaw in different parts of the iſland, did not amount to thirty, though our people croſſed it almoſt from one end to the other, without ſeeing the leaſt probability that the women had retired to any ſecluded part. If there are really no more than thirty or forty women, among ſix or ſeven hundred men, the whole nation is in a fair way of becoming entirely extinct in a ſhort ſpace of time, unleſs all our phyſical principles on the plurality of huſbands are erroneous. The greater part of the women whom we ſaw gave us no reaſon to ſuppoſe that they were accuſtomed to a ſingle partner; on the contrary, they ſeemed habitually to have arrived at the ſpirit of Meſſalina, or of Cleopatra. But this diſproportion is ſuch a ſingular phænomenon in human nature, that we cannot without difficulty give credit to it, and would willingly lay hold of any argument which, though incumbered with difficulties, might reſtore the proportion between the ſexes. It is true our party did not ſee any valley or ſecluded glen, to which the women might have confined themſelves during our ſtay; but I muſt remind the

1774. MASON. 174 532 175 X 162

9: Forster T-5 (1774) 1777
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1774. MARCH. reader of thoſe caverns mentioned before, to which the natives always refuſed to admit us. The caverns of Iceland are ſpacious enough to contain ſeveral thouſand inhabitants; and nothing is more probable than that, in a ſimilar volcanic country, ſuch caverns may afford room for a few hundreds. What reaſons the Eaſter Iſlanders may have to be more jealous of their women than the Taheitians, we know not; but we are acquainted with the outrageous and wanton behaviour of the ſailor, wherever he has ſo great a ſuperiority over the Indian, as the Dutch and Spaniards muſt have had over the people of Eaſter Iſland. The principal objection againſt this ſuppoſition is, however, the ſmall number of children which we ſaw, there being no reaſon to ſeclude them from our eyes, whatever might be thought neceſſary with regard to the women. In ſhort, this matter muſt remain unaſcertained, and if, in fact, the number of women is inconſiderable, it muſt have been diminiſhed by ſome extraordinary accident, which none but the natives could have explained; but, in all our doubts, our ignorance of their language prevented us from acquiring any information.

The next morning we ſent a boat aſhore to take in ſome water, and the weather continuing calm, another went off to trade with the natives in order to encreaſe our little ſtock of potatoes. One of the natives likewiſe plied between the ſhip

10: Cooke D-5 (1886) 1899
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

164 ations, was spoken of by them, and was attributed to walking barefoot
753 over certain running vines usually growing among the rocks at the sea-side. On reaching such places they seemed to avoid them, but nothing definite or reliable was elicited, and subsequent inquiries were overlooked in the hurry of departure.

VILLAGES AND HABITATIONS.

361 The villages on the island are three in number, Hanga-roa, near the bay of the same name, on the western side; Mataveri, within a mile of the former, and Vaihu, near Cape Hoe-Hoe, on the southerly coast of the island. Much the larger part of the population is gathered in the two [162] villages first mentioned, between which the people are about equally distributed. At the first named is the church of the Catholic mission.

About a half mile south of Mataveri, near the base of Rana Kao, and separated from it by the most distinctive valley on the island, is the residence of Mr. Brander, the first erected and by far the largest, roomiest, and most convenient; modern-built, of wood, with lofty ceilings, and porches, and shade trees growing about it. It is, however, in a sad state of repair, and the evidences of neglect and thriftlessness are apparent everywhere.

Vaihu, which can no longer be called a village, is about 4½ miles to the eastward of Mataveri. It was at one time a Catholic mission, and the church and parsonage, still in a fair state of preservation, yet remain, together with a few outbuildings, all of which are occupied by Mr. Salmon and his employees, perhaps a dozen in all. Divine service, under the leadership of native "missionaries," is still held in one portion of the church, while the remainder is appropriated to other purposes, mainly for the storage of wool, obtained from the sheep, considerable quantities of which are shipped to Tahiti.

000 The habitations of the ancient image and platform builders, the stone huts on Rana Kao, will be described in other reports.

342 Until quite recently the house of the modern Rapa Nuis were some-
171 what similar to those of the Fijians, being rectangular in shape, about 6 to 8 feet wide by 10 to 15 feet long, with nearly perpendicular sides, peak-roofed longthwise, door on side, and thatched all over.

342 A few years since an Oregon lumber vessel was wrecked on the island
177 and much of her cargo, which consisted of boards, scantling, etc., was brought ashore. Of these, under suitable instruction, the natives built themselves houses, and nearly all are now domiciled in comparatively modern style habitations and far more comfortably than formerly. These houses, which after all have a very forlorn look, are from 15 to 20 or more feet long by from 10 to 15 feet wide. The weatherboards are neatly fitted to the frame of scantling, and they are covered with a board roof. There are usually two doors hinged opposite each other on the long sides of the house, and a small window or two close by the entrances, and sometimes glazed, admit a feeble light when the doors are closed.

10: Cooke D-5 (1886) 1899
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estimated at 20,000, although other calculations give much smaller figures. I am of the opinion that in the days of the image and platform builders the population might have been even larger.

About the year 1863 the Peruvians carried off from the island in 15 vessels, as it is alleged, 5,000 of the inhabitants as agricultural laborers in Peru and to work the guano deposits of the Chincha Islands. By reason of the odium attached to this proceeding, the Peruvian Government, some time afterwards, was induced to return those who had not succumbed to their treatment and altered conditions of life. Smallpox broke out among these on the return voyage. It is stated that all except two died, and the disease, spreading among the people ashore, ravaged the island, many deaths resulting. Of those carried off by the Peruvians one old man, Pakomeo, who was taken to the Chinchas, and whom we saw, still survives, the last of the unfortunates.

Down to the year 1861 cannibalism is said to have been practiced by the natives. In that year a Jesuit mission was established on the island, at which time the population numbered about 1,500. Through the influence and teachings of the missionaries an almost radical change was wrought in the manners, habits, and character of the people, and, to a certain extent at least, they adopted the customs of civilized life.

When H. M. S. *Topaze* visited the island in 1868 there were but about 900 natives left, of whom less than 300 were females, with the numbers still rapidly declining, the proportion of deaths to births being given as 3 to 1. About the year 1875 some 500 were removed to Tahiti under contract to work on the sugar plantations of that island.

In the year 1878 the missionaries, who had done admirable work among them, departed from the island, taking with them about 300 of the people, who settled Gambier Archipelago.

When H. M. S. *Sappho* touched at the island in 1882 it was reported that but 150 of the inhabitants were left.

On the occasion of the *Mohican's* visit I received from Mr. Salmon, who had a complete census, with the names of every man, woman, and child on the island, the following summary:

Natives	155
Foreigners	11
Total number of inhabitants	166
Native men	68
Native women	43
Boys under 15 years of age	17
Girls under 15 years of age	27
Total number of natives	155
Tahitians	6
English	2
Americans	2
Frenchmen	1
Total number of foreigners	11

10: Cooke D-5 (1886) 1899
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It will be seen from the above that, at the present time, among the children there is a preponderance of girls. The population is now reported at a standstill, the deaths and births about equaling each other in point of numbers. The average number of children to a family is given as three.

The age of puberty may be placed at 15 years in the male and 13 years in the female.

In color they are of a light brown, approaching here our lighter mulattos, the parts (face, neck, hands, etc.) exposed to the weather being always somewhat darker.

They have fine, jet-black hair, which may be wavy or straight (never "kinky"), and which is worn in variable styles, according to the taste of the owner, usually short among the men, and in plaits, down the back, among the women. They never decolorize it with lime nor trim it in any fanciful manner, as is the case in the Samoan Group and other South Sea Islands. The beards of the men, which are never very heavy, correspond in these respects with the hair. There are several venerable looking gray-haired and gray-bearded old men among them. I saw no bald-headed ones, with a single exception. This was in the case of an old man who had been a cannibal, and, curiously enough, for generally throughout the islands they are very reticent on this subject, boasted of the number of human beings off whose flesh he had made a savory meal. When asked how he liked "long pig" he smacked his lips and expressed a regret that he could no longer enjoy the luxury. His expression and appearance were in keeping with his hideous appetite, for a more villainous-looking knave does not exist on the island.

The Rapa Nuiis may be considered a long-lived people. The oldest man and chief on the island, Mati by name, the patriarch of the Rapa Nuiis, does not know his actual age, but is certainly over 90 years old, and his wife, Maukua, of whom a photograph was taken, bears him close company in that as well as in other respects. The last king of the Rapa Nuiis, Maurata, also called Kaimokoe, was captured by the Peruvians, carried to the Chincha Islands, and died in 1864. His nearest descendant and successor, a nephew named Kaitae, is 79 years old. The last survivor of Peruvian captivity, Pakomeo, who was also photographed, must number at least the Biblical threescore and ten. These, with a few others not mentioned, may be considered a remarkable showing among so small a number of people, and proves not only that the original stock must have been a good one, but that their climate, surroundings, and mode of life were promotive of longevity.

In stature they are not a large race. There are a few, mainly among the older men, who are tall, erect, straight, spare in build, 6 feet or thereabouts in height, but the remainder, including the women, are smaller, and they may be classed as a small-boned, medium-sized people. They are not robust, apparently, neither are they very muscular; on the contrary, most of them present rather a slight, delicate, feeble appearance,

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461 to lie around and gossip, to smoke, to sit and "moon" over the industry, the greatness, and the monuments of his ancestors, the degeneracy and decadence of his race, perhaps, and his own utter and ineradicable worthlessness individually. Natural covetousness and desire for the possession of lucre may tempt him to serve the white man for a time, but he soon tires of his work, which speedily becomes irksome to him. And while he may exert himself a trifle occasionally, in the way of fishing, or in the cultivation of an 8 by 10 patch of sugar cane, taro, and sweet potato, it is only as a matter of necessity, to keep body and soul together, and he infinitely prefers idleness and the enjoyment of his *dolce far niente*.

273 Intoxicating drinks of any description, even kava, so common in the islands to the westward, are unknown to these people, and neither do Mr. Salmon, or the other foreign residents, keep any liquors in their possession. While, therefore, it is true that here, as elsewhere among uncivilized peoples, contact with the European has been attended by their gradual extinction, it can not be said that all the usual factors obtain in this instance, since neither the venereal poison nor intoxicants exist on the island. Consequently, these can not be assigned as causes of the decadence of the Rapa Nuis. Deportation, forced and voluntary,
161 smallpox, and customs, elsewhere mentioned in this paper, will explain their gradual extinction, in part, at least, while the fact remains that their seemingly inevitable destiny was vastly accelerated when the white man set foot upon their mysterious, mid-ocean island.

304 The rite of circumcision, so common in the other islands, is unknown here, nor does their language possess an equivalent word.

162 As may be inferred from the preponderance of the male over the
562 female portion of the community the latter are in demand, and the sup-
595 ply not being equal to it, the women are a source of great solicitude; much
589 consideration is shown them; they are fairly well taken care of, and are treated, generally, with kindness, not to say affection. Polygamy, under the circumstances, does not, of course, exist and celibacy, it may be said, only from necessity, since there are not enough females.

595 While it can not be truthfully claimed that polyandry, in the strict acceptation of the term, obtains among them, they have a custom which very nearly approaches that practice, as will appear presently.

584 At the present day the ceremonies of the church, measurably at least, govern their marriages; nevertheless the ancient custom still prevails, to a considerable extent, and in a few words it is this: When a boy arrives at the age of, say 12 years, his father looks about him for a suitable life-companion, of the opposite sex, for the young hopeful. Having discovered one to his liking the father proceeds to interview the parents of the damsel, who is perhaps of the same age, or more
584 likely younger than her prospective lord, declares his intentions matri-
583 monial and negotiations are then entered into. After a due amount of haggling as to the value of the girl, during which the parents of the